

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 073757

R 060010Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2373

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KS, BF

SUBJ: YI HU RAK (HU RAK LEE), FORMER ROK/CIA DIRECTOR

REF: JAN 30 OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER FROM EMBASSY NASSAU (CHESHES)

1. REF OFFICIAL INFORMAL LETTER INFORMS THAT HU RAK LEE IS SEEK-
ING RESIDENCY IN THE BAHAMAS AND HAS PROPOSED SEVERAL JOINT
BUSINESS VENTURES WITH THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT. LEE IN PROCESS OF
ENGAGING LOCAL ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT HIS INTEREST IN THESE
PROJECTS. LETTER INDICATES THAT LEE'S LOCAL ATTORNEY HAS ASKED
ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING LEE'S BONA FIDES.

2. LEE IS FORMER ROK/CIA DIRECTOR WHO WAS DISMISSED FROM HIS POST
IN EARLY DEC 1973. LEE SUBSEQUENTLY LEFT THE COUNTRY DEC 18,
REPORTEDLY WITHOUT PRESIDENT PARK'S PERMISSION. RECENTLY BOTH
PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTIVE FORCE CHIEF AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SPEAKER CHONG HAVE INDICATED IN EXPLICIT TERMS THAT LEE REMAINS
IN PRESIDENT'S BAD GRACES AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO
ROK IN FORSEEABLE FUTURE.

3. BEFORE HIS DISMISSAL, LEE HAD BEEN LONG-TIME ADVISOR TO
PRESIDENT PARK AND, IN HIS POST AS ROK/CIA DIRECTOR HAD MAJOR
ROLE IN ROK DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. LEE ALSO HAD MAJOR
INFLUENCE ON MANY GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND DEALINGS IN COMMERCIAL
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SECTOR. LEE AND HIS AGENCY WERE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN AUG 1973

KIDNAPPING OF FORMER OPPOSITION LEADER KIM TAE CHUNG FROM JAPAN.

4. LEE IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE ILLECTLY ACCUMULATED LARGE SUMS OF MONEY DURING HIS GOVERNMENT SERVICE, TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED BEHIND THE SCENES IN SEVERAL MAJOR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES. AFTER LEE'S DISMISSAL, HE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR CORRUPTION BUT GIVEN HIS PAST CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH PRESIDENT PARK WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT THIS WILL SURFACE.

5. SUBJECT TO ANY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS, EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION EMBASSY NASSAU PASSING SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO APPROPRIATE BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS. WE WOULD WISH IN NO FASHION TO VOUCH FOR LEE'S "BONA FIDES."

6. FOR EMBASSY NASSAU: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE ON LEE'S CURRENT OVERSEAS RESIDENCE.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE NASSAU
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